

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. James C.  
Cotham, III of Brentwood, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Dr. James C. Cotham, III; and

WHEREAS, by means of his astute and diligent service as Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, Dr. Cotham had distinguished himself as a governmental official richly deserving of the public's confidence and trust; and

WHEREAS, a Clarksville native, Dr. Cotham received his Bachelor of Science degree from Austin Peay State College, his Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee and his Ph.D. in Business Administration from Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, as the proficient steward of the department of state government charged with promoting the growth and expansion of business, Dr. Cotham worked tirelessly with citizens from all walks of life to assure success in this vital area; and

WHEREAS, he adroitly coordinated his department's outstanding efforts with the Governor, General Assembly, other state departments and numerous local government leaders across the state promoting economic growth in each of Tennessee's 95 counties; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cotham's strong leadership helped Tennessee to reap huge rewards and in doing so, he distinguished himself as a consummate professional and outstanding leader of people in state government; and

WHEREAS, from 1977-79 Dr. Cotham served assiduously as General Marketing Manager for South Central Bell in Tennessee; previously he was Vice-President for Administration and Customer Services, and Vice-President of Marketing for the Nashville Gas Company; and

WHEREAS, as a graduate professor of management at the Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business of Belmont University, Dr. Cotham used his influence to promote academic excellence and stability; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cotham also had more than twenty years of teaching, research and administrative experience in higher education, working as director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee from 1969-71, where he was responsible for statewide economic and business studies as well as state government research and development support. He also served with acumen as the Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee from 1971-73; and

WHEREAS, he served with probity on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Independent College Fund, the Nashville Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Middle Tennessee Heart Association and the Austin Peay State University Foundation; and

WHEREAS, despite the rigors of his daily schedules, Dr. Cotham was an unflagging supporter of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a member of the executive board; as a member of Community and Urban Affairs Committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Governors of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cotham evinced his faith as a devout member of the Brentwood United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and accolades aside, Dr. Cotham treasured most the relationship with his loving widow, Rachel, and their two daughters, Sally and Susan; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That we honor the memory of Dr. James C. Cotham, III, remembering with admiration his strong character and many selfless contributions to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Cotham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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